

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **Felix H. Crepeau**, a citizen of the United States, have invented a new and useful boat propeller shield system of which the following is a specification:

1
2
3 **Boat Propeller Shield System**
4
5

6 **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**
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8 Not applicable to this application.
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10
11

12 **STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY**
13 **SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**
14

15 Not applicable to this application.
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18 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**
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22 **Field of the Invention**
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24 The present invention relates generally to propeller covers and more specifically it
25 relates to a boat propeller shield system for protecting a propeller from damage and humans
26 from injury.
27
28

29 **Description of the Related Art**
30

31 Boat propellers are utilized within a boat (inboard, outboard and inboard-
32 outboard) for driving the boat forwardly and rearwardly. Boat propellers have a

1 plurality of blades that are balanced to create an optimal performance when in the
2 water. The propeller blades are easily damaged when the boat is removed from the
3 water (e.g. engaging the ground, objects, etc.). In addition, the propeller blades can
4 cause significant injury to individuals that make contact with the propeller.

5
6 While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they
7 address, they are not as suitable for protecting a propeller from damage and humans from
8 injury. Propellers are susceptible to damage when removed from the water and are
9 capable of causing injury to humans when exposed.

10
11 In these respects, the boat propeller shield system according to the present
12 invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior
13 art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of
14 protecting a propeller from damage and humans from injury.

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2 **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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4 In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of boat
5 propellers now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new boat
6 propeller shield system construction wherein the same can be utilized for protecting a
7 propeller from damage and humans from injury.

8

9 To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a cover, a front
10 opening within the cover and a zipper extending from a perimeter of the front opening.
11 The cover is preferably constructed of a resilient material such as neoprene.

12

13 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the
14 invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and
15 in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are
16 additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form
17 the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

18

19 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in
20 detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the
21 details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the
22 following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other
23 embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be
24 understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose
25 of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

26

27 A primary object of the present invention is to provide a boat propeller shield
28 system that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

29

1 A second object is to provide a boat propeller shield system for protecting a
2 propeller from damage and humans from injury.

3
4 Another object is to provide a boat propeller shield system that fits upon
5 various sizes and types of propellers.

6
7 An additional object is to provide a boat propeller shield system that is easily
8 attached about a conventional propeller.

9
10 A further object is to provide a boat propeller shield system that inboard,
11 outboard and inboard/outboard boats.

12
13 Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the
14 reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the
15 present invention.

16
17 To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be
18 embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called
19 to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be
20 made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the
21 appended claims.

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2 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**
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4 Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present
5 invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when
6 considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference
7 characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and
8 wherein:
9

10 FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention.
11

12 FIG. 2 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the zipper
13 partially opened.
14

15 FIG. 3 is a side view of the present invention with the zipper fully opened.
16

17 FIG. 4 is a side view of the present invention partially positioned upon a
18 propeller.
19

20 FIG. 5 is a side view of the present invention fully positioned upon a propeller
21 of an outboard motor.
22

23 FIG. 6 is a side view of the present invention fully positioned upon a propeller
24 of an inboard motor.
25

26 FIG. 7 is a rear view of the present invention attached to a propeller.
27

28 FIG. 8 is an upper perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the present
29 invention.

1

2 FIG. 9 is an upper rear perspective view of the alternative embodiment

3 illustrating the C-shaped slots within the rear portion of the cover.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A. Overview

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 9 illustrate a boat propeller shield system 10, which comprises a cover 20, a front opening 26 within the cover 20 and a zipper 30 extending from a perimeter of the front opening 26. The cover 20 is preferably constructed of a resilient material such as neoprene.

B. Cover

The cover 20 has an interior cavity for receiving a propeller 12 as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The cover 20 may have various shapes, however the cover 20 is preferably comprised of a circular shape which conforms to the outer perimeter of the propeller 12.

The cover 20 includes a front portion 22 and a rear portion 24 opposite of the front portion 22 as shown in Figures 1 through 3 of the drawings. The front portion 22 and the rear portion 24 are preferably each comprised of a convex structure as best illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawings.

In an alternative embodiment as shown in Figures 8 and 9 of the drawings, the cover 20 includes a middle portion 28 between the front portion 22 and the rear portion 24. The middle portion 28 is comprised of a substantially transverse structure with respect to the front portion 22 and the rear portion 24 as shown in Figures 8 and 9. In addition, the front portion 22 and the rear portion 24 are preferably substantially parallel to one another in the alternative embodiment.

1 The cover **20** is preferably constructed of a resilient and padded material. The
2 inventor has determined that the cover **20** is preferably constructed of synthetic rubber
3 such as but not limited to neoprene.
4

5 As shown in Figure 9 of the drawings, the rear portion **24** preferably at least
6 one slot for allowing water to drain from the interior of the cover **20** and for allowing
7 air movement when the boat is being transported. The slots **29** are preferably
8 comprised of a curved shape forming a C-shaped flap as shown in Figure 9.
9

10 However, the slots **29** may have various other shapes. In addition, apertures
11 and various other types of openings may be positioned within the cover **20** for allowing
12 drainage of water from the interior of the cover **20**.
13

14 **C. *Front Opening***

15 A front opening **26** extends within a front portion **22** of the cover **20** as shown
16 in Figure 1 of the drawings. The front opening **26** is preferably centrally positioned
17 within the front portion **22**.
18

19 The front opening **26** is preferably formed of a circular shape having a diameter
20 sufficient to receive the tubular portion of the propeller **12** as shown in Figures 4 and 5
21 of the drawings. The front opening **26** is preferably formed to have a relatively snug
22 fit about the tubular portion of the propeller **12**.
23

24 **D. *Front Slit and Fastener***

25 A front slit extends from a perimeter of the first opening and a fastener is
26 attached to the cover **20** for selectively securing the slit as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of
27 the drawings. The front slit allows for the expansion of the front portion **22** and front
28 opening **26** for allowing positioning about or removal from the propeller **12**. The front

1 slit preferably extends radially from the front opening 26 as best illustrated in Figure 2
2 of the drawings.

3
4 The fastener is preferably comprised of a zipper 30 structure as shown in
5 Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The zipper 30 opens from the front opening 26
6 toward the outer portion of the cover 20 as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings. Other
7 fasteners may be utilized to secure the front slit, however the zipper 30 is preferably
8 utilized for providing complete closing of the cover 20 about the propeller 12.

9
10 ***E. Operation of Invention***

11 In use, the user first opens the front slit within the cover 20 by opening the
12 zipper 30 as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings. After the slit is opened
13 sufficiently, the user then positions the cover 20 about the propeller 12 as shown in
14 Figure 4 of the drawings.

15
16 After the cover 20 is positioned upon the propeller 12, the user then closes the
17 zipper 30 thereby causing the cover 20 to be retained upon the propeller 12 as shown
18 in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings. The cover 20 protects the propeller 12 from
19 damage and users from injury. To remove the cover 20 from the propeller 12, the user
20 simply opens the zipper 30 and then removes the cover 20 from the propeller 12.

21
22 What has been described and illustrated herein is a preferred embodiment of the
23 invention along with some of its variations. The terms, descriptions and figures used
24 herein are set forth by way of illustration only and are not meant as limitations. Those
25 skilled in the art will recognize that many variations are possible within the spirit and
26 scope of the invention, which is intended to be defined by the following claims (and
27 their equivalents) in which all terms are meant in their broadest reasonable sense
28 unless otherwise indicated. Any headings utilized within the description are for
29 convenience only and have no legal or limiting effect.